is empowered to take investment decisions on setting up of specific value chain integration projects within the core area of competence of the company. ONGC periodically identifies, as per their strategic business plan, such projects which are considered to achieve growth with stability through enhanced synergies amongst its operational units. ONGC has conceptualized entry into the Petrochemicals business in order to have synergistic forward integration in the hydrocarbon value chain.

(b) ONGC would be setting up manufacturing units of Petrochemicals at Dahej, Gujarat and Mangalore, Karnataka.

(c) **Dahej petrochemical project (within Dahej Special Economic Zone (SEZ), Gujarat):** The project involves setting up of a global scale, 1.1 million metric tones per annum (MMTPA) Ethylene cracker and downstream basic polymer units to produce Poly-ethylene, Poly-propylene and Elastomers. The estimated investment in the projects is approximately Rs. 13.600 crores and commissioning is planned by 2010.

Mangalore Petrochemical Project (within Mangalore SEZ, Karnataka): The project beign essentially an aromatic complex within Managalore, SEZ has been planned to produce 920 KTPA of high value para-xylene for value addition to aromatic rich naptha and other immediate streams of Mangalore Refinery & Petrochemcials Limited (MRPL). The estimated project cost is Rs. 4852 crores and commissioning is planned by 2010.

Assistance sought by ONGC from MNCs

1585. SHRI P.R. RAJAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether ONGC is seeking assistance from multi-national oil companies to develop the Krishna-Godavari Basin which is rich in natural gas; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir. ONGC is in the process of consultation with multi-national oil companies and reputed

service providers, seeking their expertise and assistance to devleop the hydrocarbon finds in Krishna-godavari basin.

(b) Western Geco has already been entrusted with the job of preparing a detailed appraisal plan for the discovered fields and hydrocarbon finds in nomination and NELP acreages of Krishna-Godavari offshore.

As ONGC does not have the expertise in developing deep water finds, efforts are on to establish posisble tie-ups with reputed international companies for developing the discovered fields and finds.

New technology for ageing oil wells

†1586. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that having become old, several oil wells belonging to public sector oil companies are producing less than their capacity;

(b) if so, the number of such oil wells by December, 2006;

(c) whether new technology can come in handy for increasing production for these oil wells;

(d) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto;

(e) whether indigenous companies will have to rely on foreign companies for these state-of-the-art technology; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for not achieving success in respective research in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) and (b) Most of the producing fields with public sector oil companies are at the matured level of exploitations and have crossed their plateau period of production and have entered the natural decline phase, which is a common phenomenon in any petroleum producing fields.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.